United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Three supplementary items submitted for inclusion in General Assembly agenda: on presence of foreign troops on Baltic territory, on emergency aid for Afghanistan and on Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

+ Bulgaria reiterates proposal that international observers be deployed inside its western borders in order to avert expansion of conflict in former Yugoslavia to neighbouring countries.

+ Human Rights Subcommission, currently meeting in Geneva, adopts five resolutions on discrimination against women, sex tourism, child exploration, among other things; concludes general debate on human rights violations.

+ Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopts annual report to General Assembly.

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The General Assembly has been asked to include in its agenda for the forthcoming session next month three supplementary items, one dealing with the presence of foreign troops on Baltic territory, one with emergency assistance for Afghanistan, and one with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have jointly requested the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled "Complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territory of the Baltic States". An explanatory memorandum, annexed to the letter conveying the request to the Secretary-General, says that one year after their admission to membership in the United Nations as sovereign States, the three independant States still had foreign military forces stationed on their territory without their consent. The inclusion of the item in the General Assembly's agenda "would constitute a timely application of preventative diplomacy in a region where the maintenance of peace and security may be threatened".

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In a similar letter to the Secretary-General, the Chargé d'affaires of Afghanistan, Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai, has requested the inclusion in the Assembly's agenda of a supplementary item entitled "Emergency international assistance for the reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan".

The attached memorandum states that it is the "moral obligation" of the General Assembly to help rebuild Afghanistan, with the cooperation of the international community, so that the country, "one of the poorest among the least developed countries", could be enabled to enjoy "peace, prosperity and the rule of law".

The Chargé d'affaires of Czechoslovakia has requested the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled "Coordination of the activities of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe".

The question of interaction between the two organizations acquired a new dimension after the CSCE Summit in Helsinki in July, the explanatory memorandum states. That had been emphasized by the developments in the former Yugoslavia and the suggestion of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali that the CSCE consider what role it might play in terms of peace-keeping requirements in the area.
Document A/ 47/191, A/47/192, A/47/193

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Bulgaria has reiterated a proposal that international observers be deployed on Bulgarian territory along its western borders in order to avert the expansion of the conflict in former Yugoslavia to neighbouring countries.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 14 August, the Bulgarian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Svetlomir Baev, said his country was prepared to accept civilian observers to be deployed the the area by decision of the international community. He welcomed the upcoming Conference on Former Yugoslavia, scheduled to begin in London on 26 August, saying it could become a forum not only for seeking a settlement of the conflict but also for harmonizing the new realities in South-eastern Europe with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

In a related development, the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, Milan Panic, has written a letter to the Secretary-General asking for the assistance of the United Nations in monitoring all of the border crossing points between Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the deployment of United Nations observers at all Yugoslav army fields.

In his letter, dated 17 August, Mr. Panic also offered the "currently greatly underutilized facilities of Belgrade International Airport" to ensure the peaceful delivery of humanitarian and relief supplies to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
(S/24454, A/47/380)

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Non-governmental organizations and some States has expressed concern about ongoing violence, disappearances and intimidation as a result of actions by terrorists, drug-traffickers and groups linked to Governments in certain Latin America countries, particularly Peru and Colombia. The views were stated yesterday in Geneva as the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities concluded its debate on human rights violations worldwide.

On Friday, 14 August, the Subcommission recommended, in one of five resolutions adopted, that the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights Committee give priority to the question of discrimination against women. By another resolution, the Subcommission called for steps to combat sex tourism and various forms of child exploitation and prostitution. Other concerns addressed in the resolutions were the encouragement of the universal acceptance of human rights instruments and reservations made by several States regarding the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The Subcommission will end its forty-fourth session on 28 August.

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The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, at a meeting last week in Geneva, adopted its annual report, which will be submitted through the Secretary-General to the upcoming forty-seventh session of the General Assembly next month.

Accompanying the annual report was a letter to the Secretary-General concerning the critical financial situation affecting the Committee. It stated that the Committee continued to be in the paradoxical situation of having to deal with a considerably increased workload while reducing the duration of its meetings from six to two weeks because of financial difficulties.

Another letter, accompanying the report, concerned the review of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination in States whose reports were overdue.

However, the letter mentioned that owing to the lack of time, it was not possible to consider petitions and other information relating to non-self-governing territories or to hold a second meeting with the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights.

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